





A DUTIFUL

ADDRESS

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THRONE;

UPON THE

PRESENT STATE

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PREFACE.

HE Ears of Princes, like those of great Beauties, are seldom blessed with the Harmony of Truth. Flattery is the Language of the Court, as well as the Dreffing-Room: which like a false Mirror held up to our View, conceals all Deformities; and, if Charms there be, heightens every Charm. Some Monarchs, like Epicurus's Gods, a Species of themselves, sit enveloped in their own Greatness; "Natura procul a nostris Rebus sejunctaque longe." Whilst others, to whom every Avenue is blocked up with Minions and Court-Sycophants, are continually abused with Misrepesentations of Facts and false Surmises; highly prejudicial both to themselves and People. But such is the Happiness of a British Constitution, that a Prince of this Realm Labours not under such Difficulties. If from a weak Cabinet, a corrupt Ministry, or Poltroomry

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Individual is injured, and has consequently a Right to complain. This Right or Priviledge, as Junius justly observes, Populus tacite non utendo amittit, whenever we want Spirit and Resolution to assert; the British Liberty is forfeited and given up. And to add to this Happiness of our Constitution, we have now a Prince on the Throne; who in many repeated Instances has shew'd himself ready to hear the Grievances of his distressed Subjects; and will we trust be as speedy to redress them. On this Liberty, the undoubted Claim of every Englishman, I rest my Title to address my Sovereign; approaching the Throne with Loyalty and Allegiance.

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DREAD SIR,

F the Administration of publick Affairs was conducted with Honour and Integrity; if the immense Sums, of which this Nation has lately been drained, had tended to advance the Honour, and Interest of Great-Britain, or either; to whom would your joyful People pay their grateful Acknowledgement of such Blessings, but yourself? On whom would their Affections be fixed, as the true Source and Fountain of their Glory and Success; but on him, in whose Hands was the sole Investiture of all who sit at the Helm of State, and whose Wisdom had invested with such important

In order to set the present State of Great-Britain, the Subject of this Address, in the clearest Light; I had endeavoured at a Parallel between the State of it in the Time of Queen Elizabeth, at the Commencement of the Spanish War, and in the Year 1756, when we had engaged ourselves in a War with France. But this View of your Realm I shall wave presenting your Majesty with for two Reasons: that I may not load our Ashes with the Executions of Posterity; nor wantonly draw

draw upon me the Critick's Censure, for attempting a Parallel between Things so extreamly different, as the State of Great-Britain in 1581, and 1756. For who would not treat a Parallel with Disgust, between a Beauty in her Meridian, when her Charms attracted the Admiration of all who beheld her, when her Smiles filled every Bosom with Delight, and her Frowns every Breast with Terror; loved and honoured by her Friends, seared and reverenced by her Enemies, courted and admired by all: and that same lovely glorious Being in a State of miserable Corruption; every Limb putrid and unsound, the Prey of vile Grubs, and every Worm of the Earth, 'Hei mihi, qualis erat! quantum mutata!'

An elegant Historian in a short Summary of the deplorable State of Rome, at that Period of Time, when a general Depravation of Manners had nigh been subversive of that august Empire, hath handed down to Posterity a useful Picture. Avaritia Fidem, Probitatem, caterasque Artes bonas subvertit; pro his Superbiam, Crudelitatem, Deos negligere, omnia venalia habere, edocuit. Give me Leave, dread Sir, to examine, how applicable the

the above Portraiture of the Roman Republick is to the present State of Great-Britain.

If we may judge from the frequent and fevere Reflections, which the Historian has throughout this Piece lavished upon Avarice; it appears to have been at that Time the grand Hinge on which turned that so general Depravation of Manners he complains of. And most certainly in the Breast, where this Vice hath taken Root, like an ill Weed, it grows apace, and spreading wide its baneful Stalks, so effectually fills the narrow Place which received it; that there is no Room, not a Corner left for Honour, and Probity, or any Thing that is liberal and ingenuous. As I am determined to aftert nothing that may give Offence: which to fo excellent a Prince as your Majesty, I am sure Truth never can: I will not be so hardy as to affirm, that there are at the Head of our Administration any of this accurfed Stamp, any in whofe Bosom predominates this unchristian, unsocial Vice, For fure a Mind bent upon Self-Interest and fordid Lucre, is of all others the most unqualified for the Administration of a Nation's

Nation's Concerns. He, who for a little Pelf will barter his own Liberty in complying with the unjust Commands and wanton Will of a Court, will not hesitate, whenever Opportunity offers, to fell his King, his Country, or both. A Soul fo narrow and contracted, is not capable of expanding itself sufficiently to admit Circumstances, merely relative to publick Utility, and detached from all other Confiderations of Advantage. And whilst all his planned Schemes and Designs are thus alloyed with his own paultry Interest; one Course of acting must make him rich; but often, if not always a very different one, his Country great. And which of these Considerations, as often as they clash, shall be made subfervient to the other by a Minister of this Cast, let your Majesty determine. Of such a Minister permit me, Sir, to present you with a Picture, as drawn by the Pen of an eminent and able British Statesman. Omnia ad se refert; se gerens pro Centro Mundi, ac si omnes Lineæ in se suisque Fortunis debeant concurrere; de Reipublica Navi, licet Tempestatibus juctata, neutiquam solicitus, modo ipsi in Scapha Rerum Juarum Receptus detur & Effugium. I hope, I trust, that Britain groans not under such a Ministry. Yet what said a certain great

great Personage to one, who bears no small Sway in the Administration of publick Affairs? "As " for you, my L- C-r, you mind no-"thing but heaping up Wealth, and aggran-"dizing your own Family." And what is the Voice of a Nation? That this was but too truly pronounced. But not to prefume too much upon Rumour, this let me observe in general; that the famous Fable of the Fox and the Swarm of Flies, however applicable it might be to those at the Helm of the Athenian State, is by no Means fo to a Ministry; composed of some, whose insupportable Profusion must reduce them to perpetual Depredations on the publick Treasure: and others, whose infatiable Avarice will never permit them to think they have amassed enough, so long as Opportunity is given them of pilfering their Country, and amassing more.

AND in whatever State, as well as the Roman, Avarice hath elbowed out of Place Honour and Probity: Pride and Cruelty, as a natural Confequence, will ever succeed in their Room. In such a State, he who can bow lowest, fawn with the most abject Air of Meanness,

ness, and best sooth and slatter the Vices of the great; let him away to Court, and his Fortune is made. There his Parts can not fail to be of Service to him, there he will find many powerful Friends, many too many as proud as they are ignorant. Yet that fuch is the State of Great-Britain, that Pride and Cruelty are the Vices of this Nation, who shall be found so hardy as to affirm? For was not the Government, which we have the Happiness to live under, of all others the most mild and indulgent, how many would long fince have fallen miserable Victims to a Nation's Displeafure, who feem to triumph over publick ----, and flourish in the Spoils of their Country! No one therefore can justly tax this present A--n with Cruelty; unless to doom their Countrymen to perpetual Toil and Labour, to support the unnecessary Expences of a foreign Army: unless to strip them of every defensive Weapon, and oblige them to rely for Protection of themselves, their Wives, and Children, upon a Parcel of mercenary Germans; unless to ruin the poor Man who shall chance to kill a Hare or Partridge, merely because he is a poor Man: unless to engage a Set of gallant young Fellows

in the Defence of their Country with a Promise of not being sent out of it, and afterwards ship them off, like a Pack of Galley-Slaves, for America; whilst Hessians and Hanoverians are left behind to banquet and parade it in Britain, be Cruelty: unless to —— But there are of this Kind too many Instances, and those too notorious, to need insisting longer upon.

Diis te minorem quod geris, imperas: was not the Remark of a bigotted Enthusiast, but a learned and ingenious Heathen. And conformably to this Observation, Sallust enumerates the Contempt of Heaven; that is, not the Practice of Vice in general, but the particular Difregard shewn to God, and neglect of Religion, amongst the reigning Vices of Rome, at the degenerate Period he is describing. If then in those obscure Ages, guided as they were merely by the Light of Nature, they were able to form those enlarged and just Notions of the Necessity of Religion and Piety to God; what Reflections ought a Defect in this Duty to raise in the Mind of a reasoning Christian? Sure I am, that whoever is not ignorant of the Histories of past Ages, can not be ignorant that a contemptuous Treatment of divine Things

Things is as certain a Prelude to the Ruin of that State where fuch Corruptions have crept in; as that the same Principle is destructive of Virtue and Probity in the Mind that is weak enough to harbour it. And indeed it is highly reasonable to suppose, that the State, which has fo forfeited the Protection of divine Providence, has not long to fublist: unless we suppose the World to be governed by mere Chance, and a lucky Coincidence of Atoms; a Notion fo extravagantly abfurd, that, tho' I have not the most exalted Opinion of the Sagacity of our present great Men, I will not so far abuse their Intellects, as to suppose them capable of entertaining. Would your Majesty know how far Britain is affected with this Piece of Roman Corruption; the Duke of --- the Earl of - the Lord - and the Honourable Mr. - can any of them inform your Majesty, how God and Religion are treated at the Tables of the great. Our holy Religion, tho' by the Pens of fome, the exemplary Lives of others, and the voluntary Sufferings of many, proved even to Demonstration, generally furnishes apt Matter of Jest and Pleasantry; whilst even its Fundamentals are blasphemously ridiculed by every

every illiterate Ape of Reason: and God's Minister, whether Bishop, Priest, or Deacon, is always a standing Joke. Not that I would be thought fo through-paced an Advocate for the Gown, as to suppose it never conceals a Scoundrel. I fear there are too many called to the facred Function, whose Vices and Infamy may justly provoke the severest Reslections, and most fastidious Neglect. But when I see a sleek Prelate, without any Thing to recommend him but Friends and Fortune, knowing nothing but how to flatter a Courtier, and play at Cards with his Lady; to drum, rout, and Earth quake rowl about in his easy Chariot; whilst Worth and Virtue walks the Streets in tattered Crape, and 'drudges at Prayer' for a new Coat or a Dinner: I can look upon this unworthy Disposal of the chief Dignities of the Church in no other Light, than as a very great Aggravation of the Impiety, on which I am addressing your Majesty, the Neglect of Heaven. If the bare Example of a good and virtuous Prince was in itself sufficient to promote Virtue, and discountenance Vice; Britain sure could never have been more virtuous than at present: for when did greater Piety and Virtue ever adorn

a Throne? a Prince therefore in the Distribution of his Favours ought to make Vice and Ignorance the greatest Obstacle to Preferment, and on Virtue and Probity let be grounded the greatest Pretentions to it. Be pleased, royal Sir, to cast your Eyes back upon the Reigns of William the III. Queen Anne, and other your royal Ancestors; and you will find then a Set of Dignitaries, who did Honour to Religion and their Country, and were of Service both in Church and State. If the Nomination to Sbe vested in your Ministers, it is the humble Petition of all your good Subjects; that you would be graciously pleased to assume to yourself a Ministry, that will have some Regard to personal Worth and Abilities, in the Disposal of Dignities of the last Importance. If those Dignitaries be the Appointment of your Majesty. for the Sake of God and Religion let the Church be well supplied. Let not the sole Recommendation in a Bishop of Christ be Pliability, and Obsequence to the Commands of a wicked profligate - * He, who at such an one's Nod.

^{*} I refer the Reader to Virgil, B. 6. V. 620. where he may observe, what a comfortable Mantion the Poet has affigned him, qui fixit Leger Pretio, at a refixit: and amiest what excellent Company he has placed him.

Nod, will give his Voice for the enacting a Bill one Sessions of Parliament, and at the Command of the same great Man, vote a Repeal of it the next, must be a pitiful Advocate for his Country's Good, and to his King a most unworthy Counsellor. That B——— who swayed by Ministerial Instuence adds his Mite towards the promoting an Act most oppressive of the Liberty of the Subject, most ignominious to the Clergy, and the highest Instringment on their Rights and Privileges; most destructive of Virtue and Morality, and most opposite to the Doctrines of Christianity, is a poor Bulwark against the Enemies of Christ, a rotten Pillar of the Church.

I am led insensibly into Mention of the Venality of the Times; a Subject trite and ungrateful: and such as I would forbear addressing your Majesty upon, but that the Plan I had sigured out to myself for the Conveyance of these Considerations, requires it. "There is a Drug, with which we remove all bad Humours, and it is fold only at my Shop:" was the infamous Boast of a late Minister, whose Memory both we and our Posterity shall ever have Reason to curse. Did this Drug, as fatal to the Constitution of the Body politick, as Ward's strongest Preparation

Preparation to that of the natural Body, subsi no longer than that grand State-Empirick practifed: Who can be ignorant that it did? Yes, it has been fince administered as profusely as ever, tho' much less judiciously. For the Truth of this Affertion I appeal to every Man's own Knowledge, and every Day's Experience. Whoever casts his Thoughts upon the British Army where Worth and Gallantry ought to be a particular Recommendation; will find Bribery and Corruption, like the Furies of old, disposing of and confounding every Thing by their hellish Influence. Nor doth the Navy afford a more agreeable Prospect. Great and numrous as our Fleets are, what have they effected? I will fay nothing of that unlettered Chief, who by a Series of lucky Incidents stumbling upon an immense Treasure, was by the prevailing Recommendation of that only promoted to the eminent Station he now adorns; and which far other Qualifications ought to recommend to, We have had the Mortification to fee a Man whose Courage was untried, and his Honesty much suspected, advanced to the most imporcant Command. We have seen an Expedition

of the greatest Moment, the British Fleet deshined for the Relief of Minorca, entrusted to the Conduct of Admiral Byng; whilst the gallant Capt. Wright commanded a little Snow of twelve Guns. In Truth, my Sovereign, not to detain your important Moments any longer, by fixing you upon such ugly Prospects, such uncomfortable Scenes, as threaten Ruin and Destruction to yourself and Realm: I will leave it under Consideration, how justly the severe Resection, which the Numidian cast upon Rome, may be applied to Great-Britain *.

THUS, Royal Sir, with what Judgement I will not prefume to infift, but with the strictest Impartiality, and most facred Regard to Truth, I have presented your Majesty with a transient View of the present State of Great-Britain. And if from hence it shall appear, that our Manners are now as corrupt, as were the Romans at the Time of their greatest Depravation;

^{*} O Urbem venalem, & cito perituram, si Emptorem inveneris. Liv. Epist. 64.

tion; if Virtue is discountenanced, and those very Vices, which in the End proved the Ruin of imperial Rome, were never known more luxuriant than now in the Island of Great-Britain; what have we not to fear? For it is an Axiom in Philosophy, that like Causes produce similar Effects. Yet indulge me your royal Ear a few Minutes longer, and as I have prefented you with a Perspective of the Corruption of this Nation, I will in two Words point out to you the grand Source of it, and all our Misconduct and ill Success. And the Cause known, it will be a Matter of no great Difficulty to remove the Effect; to stop the Torrent, before it has with Ruin and Destruction bore down every Thing before it, and retrieve the Glory of your Crown and Kingdom. The grand Source then, from whence all the Streams of Policy run foul in this Nation, to which we owe all our ill Success, every misconducted Scheme, from Braddock's Embarkation to the Hour I am now writing, is Parliamentary Interest. How are all the chief Offices filled with Honourables and Right Honourables! How few Colonels are there in the Army, who owe not their Promotion

motion to Parliamentary Interest! Is it otherwise with our Naval Commanders? And his Elbows may in vain itch for Lawn, who by his own Personal Interest, or the Connections of his Friends cannot command a Seat or two in the House of Commons: and even then a service Eccho to the great Man's Will is a necessary Qualification for his suture Advancement. And by what Means Seats are obtained in the British House of Commons, there is not a Cobler in the Realm, who can not inform your Majesty.

Curia Pauperibus clausa est, dat Census Honores.

But the Arts of managing a Mob at an Election, and conducting an Army in the Field, are very different; from Expertness in the former an Officer may be able to serve a wicked Minister, but he will never learn from thence to subdue the Enemies of his Country. Formerly to rise in the Army or Navy, the Officer studied War and Navigation. Then the Glory of our Arms was great, and a due Reverence was paid to the British Flag. Courage and Worth were then the Scale whereby to ascend to Greatness;

to which they now fcramble up on the Shoulders of a poor, despicable, prostituted Rabble. Then the Battles of Schluse and Cressy made England formidable. Then a Howard and a Drake with fourscore Ships were an over Match for the Spanish (as that braggart People thought) Invincible Armada. Then a Greenville with a fingle Ship could maintain an Engagement for twenty four Hours, against more than fifty Spanish Galeons. Now an English Fleet, confisting of thirteen Sail, is conquered and flies before a French Squadron of twelve ill-conditioned Ships: Then a Dudley at the Head of a few English Regulars, and a British Militia, was thought a fusficient Defence against the most formidable Invasion with which Britain was ever threatened. ******* s are at the Expence of British Wealth and British Glory called over to protect our Properties, ourfelves, our Wives, and Chil_ dren, against the Powers of France; against that Nation with whom the Name of Marlborough is still proverbially terrible. Is England then so fallen, so metamorphosed from what it was, when the Duke of Bretagne to strike Terror into

into his Enemies the French, then under the Command of Charles the VIIIth, apparelled Fifteen Hundred of his own Subjects in the Arms and Cross of England? —— Fuimus Troes—

FROM these little Anecdotes your Majesty may collect that the People you now govern, were once a gallant and warlike Nation. We still breath the same Air, and, believe a loyal Subject, Britain still pants with the same Spirit of Liberty and Valour. 'Though the Helm may be rotten and fit only for the Ax, the Hull of the Ship is still found. What hinders then, but that we may have a New Steerage, that every unfound Part be pared off: and the Vessel thus refitted may yet ride unrivalled Mistress of the Seas. To drop the Allegory, let your Majesty be intreated to comply with a Nation's Voice, and **** * * **** that have too long ruled their Country with a Rod of Corruption. Rouse yourself and be the King of Great-Britain. not Posterity read with Raptures the glorious Reigns of our Edwards and Henrys; whilst with Abhorrence, Loathing, and Disgust, they flur over, as ignominious, the Reign of **** II The Affairs of Britain are not so desparate, our

our Country's Glory is not fo irrecoverably fallen, but that your Majesty, assisted with capable and honest Advisers, may recover them. There is a Man, who from his own fingle Abilities is more capable of promoting the Interest of this Kingdom, than all the wise Heads of the present Administration united. Why then was this same Man told the King had no further Occasion for his Service, I am sure his Country had. But this Man had not Selfishness enough in his Composition, to continue him in the reigning Cabal. He regarded his own Honour, the publick Good, and the Glory of his Country, above the paultry Confiderations of Self-Interest, and looked upon a gainful Place, and a little Pelf, as a poor adequate Reward for ruining his Country. There is a P-t There islet me not presume further than becomes a Subject, who ardently loves his Country, and dutifully reveres his King. My Concerns are trifling, it is not my private, but a Nation's Petition; that you would be graciously pleased you may have a better. Such as can justly have no other Pretensions to Employments, than the kind

kind and bounteous Disposition of a gen'rous Master, your Majesty may oblige out of the civil List. There are many honourable, as well as lucrative Places; in which a bad Head and a worse Heart can do little Harm. And if you would be well ferved, to Places of Trust let Worth always recommend itself. Men of Abilities and Integrity will be better qualified to advance the Glory of your royal Dignity, your Crown and Kingdom: will more firmly attach and engage your Subjects to your illustrious Person and House; than a corrupt Parliament, tho' entirely at your Devotion. Let it be your chief Care, that Knavery and Cowardice be severely punished; and proceed as you have begun, be profuse in rewarding Probity and Bravery. The Janifaries have been ever esteemed the most gallant Body of the Turkish Army. And from whence can it be supposed that this their Bravery arises, but from a due Regard and Encouragement had to Personal Worth. They are the Sons of Christian Parents, who are carried into Turky in their Infancy; and there brought up to Arms, or civil Offices, as their Abilities and Capacities seem most to inclin

incline them. These have no Friends, or private Fortunes, no such Thing as Parliamentary Interests, nothing but their own intrinsick Merit to recommend them.

THE State of this Realm is shattered, but not broke, and your Majesty may be assured, that nothing can more contribute towards the establishing it upon a firm Basis, than a just Dispensation of Rewards and Punishments. And the unhappy Course of the present War hath presented you with many Objects both of your Favour and Displeasure. Some have behaved themselves gallantly; the Conduct of many will, it is to be feared, ill bear canvaling? What a Pother did the trivial Affair of Squires and Canning raise in this Nation! But that, on which the Eyes and Hearts of all England are now fixed, is not a Matter of mere Curiofity; but of publick Concern, and the last Importance. It is, why Minorca was loft. And this Question comprehends a thousand Particulars besides the mere Conduct of A---I B-g. If this Gem was torn from the British Diadem by the Chance of War, may the Conduct of all those, to whose Mismanagement, Treachery D

Treachery, or Cowardice, it has been 100 generally imputed, be brought to Light, and fairly reconnoitred: that being thus publickly justified, they may be publickly and honourably acquitted. If they shall be found to have done all that human Power could effect for the Interest of their Country; may they by that Country be careffed and rewarded, and their Names remain ever dear amongst us. But if on the contrary, after a strict tho' candid Examination, it should appear, that the indelable Reproach sustain'd by the British Flag, in the Mediterranean, and every other unsuccessful Expedition, were owing to the Inattention and Supineness of some, the Venality and Treachery of others, the Cowardice of one or more, and the Incapacity of all; Justice demands that they be feverely punished: adequately, no reasonable Man would require, for a Punishment adequate to fuch Crimes, not Phalaris himself, were he now alive, or the good Lords Inquisitors could invent. But that your Majesty may not be amused with the idle Sounds, " of the uncertain Chance of the War", continually vibrated in your Ear: the Mystery of those Words I beg Leave to explain. Things are ascrib'd to Chance

Chance, which flow from Causes not known. nor by human Reason accountable for. How far this shall be found applicable to the Loss of Minorca, and every other inferiour Miscarriage, let Impartiality and common Sense determine-Who knows not, how indulgent, how generous, and kind a Master, your Majesty has ever fhewed yourfelf? So much greater therefore is the Crime of Treachery in your Servants to fo gracious a Sovereign. Yet let not your Clemency, great as it it, choak up the Avenues to Justice. The only Consolation for such a Series of Losies, is in seeing every Misconduct traced from its true Source; and the Causes of it cut off: all the Hopes your loyal People have of feeing a Nation's Grievances redressed, and a Nation's Affairs better conducted, is in your Majesty. In your repeated Assurances and known Concern for your Kingdom's Glory is rested our Confidence, that you will not be satisfied with a partial Enquiry and Determination in a Matter, on which the Honour, Interest, and future Welfare of your Crown and Kingdoms entirely depend. And whilst to publick Justice are delivered up the Abettors and Perpetrators of publick Wrongs; Britons may still hope

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hope to fee their Country glorious and flourishing as it has been. Worth and Merit may be re-instated in those eminent Places, too long usurped by fervile Compliance and Venality. Again a Ministry may, as formerly, be honoured with a Nation's Applause, and reign gloriously in their Affections; whilst the Acts of their Administration shall not shun the Light, but from being throughly canvassed, receive their greatest Glory. Then a naval Commander shall blush to plead in Excuse for slying before an inferior Enemy, that he was afraid of hazarding his Majesty's Ship and his own precious Life. Then a Land Officer, who shall meanly give his Advice for running away, shall for the future be ordered to stay at Home; whilst some brave, poor Man shall be appointed to supply his Place, and from future Infamy and Scars protect him. Then shall Learning and Piety be a greater Recommendation to ecclesian cal Preferment, than the most dextrous Method of managing a Borough. Then Virtue shall flourish, and Christianity triumph; Churches be more frequented, the Brothel and Arthur's less:

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